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WEEK OF COMEDY AT THE THEATERS



Mme. Melba will not sing in America this season. She has elected to remain in Australia, where she is visiting her parents at present, because of the feeble health in which she found her aged father. He needs her attendance, she says, and, as he has not many more years to live, she feels that she ower him all her attention if he demands it, for she is very fond of her father, and it, for she is very fond of her father, and this is the first time she has been home in

HAVLINS

many years.

The news came by way of a private letter to one of Melba's friends in New York. It has not been confirmed, officially, but that it is true there can be little doubt. A portion of the communication reads as follows:

"I must tell you about Mme, Melh-'s great triumph here. You know this is the first visit she has paid to her old home spice she became famous, and the way she has been received is enough to turn her head. The most elaborate sort of a reception was gotten up for her on her ar-rival, and she seemed to enjoy it very much, although I understand she was reully quite unhappy because her father couldn't

where her honors.

"Her father is a very old man and not very strong, and the excitement attendant upon the arrival of his famous daughter, shom he hadn't seen for years, was to

"The result was that when the steamer searing Mme. Melba was sighted the new gave her father some sort of a stroke, and for awhile they thought he was going to die. He recovered finally, but he is still very feeble, and he wants Melba with him

all the time.

"What with that care and the heavy work of her concerts I don't imagine she is having a very jolly time. But if she isn't, she doesn't let any one know. She is in radiant health, apparently, and I never saw her look better or heard her sing better than she did at the first of her concerts here, which I attended the other day. Of course I was those Proceedings of the contract of the concerts and the contract of t course, I was there. Everyobdy was. In-deed, it would have been unpatriotic to stay away, for, you know, Mme. Melba has arnounced that she will devote the entire eds of her tour to the charities o

When he was a little boy, Burton Holmes had preconceived ideas of what he would be when he attained the stature of manhood. His beau ideal was not John L. Stoddard, however, but Alexander Hermann, the prestidigitateur. While Hermann was in Chicago, which was then Mr. Holmes's home, he might count on Holmes as a regular attendant at every performance. Finally the young admirer met the great must y the young admirer met the great magi-cian, and under his tuition became an adept in many of the more simple feats of leger demain. Holmes bought a magician's "outdemain. Holmes bought a magician's "outfit," and so improved under Hermann's instruction that he finally gave a number of
successful entertainments before audiences
of his friends. Aithough the lecture platform now claims him, Mr. Holmes still retains his dexterity of finger and finds it an
immense aid in securing good photographic
results among barbaric or semi-stribaic people, or with groups of children in any land.
His children, shown on the screen, are almost invariably on the grin, and always. most invariably on the grin, and always naturally posed.

Leslie Stuart, the composer of "Florodo-ra," has written the music for a new musi-cal comedy, for which Paul M. Potter has supplied the words. The story deals with supplied the words. The story deals with the adventures of a school girl, who is mis-taken at a stockbroker's office for a type-writer. The opening scene is in the grounds of a convent school, and the scene of the second (and last) act is the stockbroker

Sardou's new play on Dunte for Sir Henry Irving is in min tableaux and has forty speaking parts. Gustave Dore's "Inferno" will be put on the stage. One of the most important scenes will represent the Palace of the Popes of Avignon, showing the wonderful fregoes of Giotto. The music will be written by Xavier Leroux, and the scenery will be painted in Paris.

Bob Hilliard, who not very long ago declared that Wall street would hereafter be his only love, has abandoned this with equal enthusiasm, and is now on the vandeville stage filling in the time until he is ready to appear again as a star.

He has signed a contract with Rich & Harris whereby he will be under their direction for the next five years.

His first appearance will be at the Fourteenth Street Theater, New York, January & when he will give the first performance of "Jim Bludsoe." This is a melodrams of

American life, founded upon the poem by Secretary of State John Hay.

It was given a trial performance in Chi-cago last spring, where it ran for four weeks at McVicker's Theater. Its produc-tion was delayed before because the man-agers believed that Hilliard was the man most capable of filling the role. He would not listen to say offer from them. not listen to any offer from them at first. His appearance as a hero in humble life is a decided departure from the roles in which he was prominent in the past.

Rarely before has so curious a condition presented itself as is furnished by the New York playbills to-day. Only two plays of American life, by American playwrights, are now being presented. England leads the list of invaders and fills eleven theaters. France has three representatives, including the one-act "Carrots" which divides the occupancy of the Savoy with an English comedy. Two German plays are running, with another on the way, while Ireland and Italy each has one. It is strange that this lack of American plays should exist at any time in New York, and stranger still that the only two plays which are not importations are offered by the same manager, Frank McKee, who has Clyde Fitch's "The Stubbornness of Geraldine" and Ramsey Morris's "Ninety-and-Nine." Rarely before has so curious a condition

Here are some of the pithy lines in "The Stubbornness of Geraldine," the new Clyde Fitch play, in which Mary Mannering is ap-

pearing:
Geraldine inquires of a fellow-passenger Geraldine inquires of a fellow-passenger his reason for going to America.

Count Kinsky: "Vell! For one reason I go to—
I tink ze vord—earn?—mine living."

Geraldine: "Tou'll have lots of splendid company doing that in America. And your other reason for going? It can't be to marry, or you wouldn't have begun with the other; foreigners usually just jumble these two reasons up togetter."

The keynote of the heroine's nature is sounded in this passage:

Sounded in this massage:

Geraldine: "The more I hear against him, the stronger I believe in him—I can't help it."

Mrs. Wrighton: "That's your natural inborn stubbornness, dear; you had it as a child,"

Geraldine: "I don't think it's stubbornness this time. I think it's love. No woman can pretend to love a man unless she has faith in him. And the only one who should be able to destroy that faith should be the man she loves."

At Mrs. Wrighton's hadden which alone. At Mrs. Wrighton's bridge whist class: Mrs. Mathewson; 'We are only just learning

Mrs. Dreed: "At this late day? Mercy! Most women I know are taking lessons in forget

ting it."

The debutante from Montana shows her British betrothed the sights of New York from the windows of the elevated and electric cars, and, after ranging from Cleopatra's Needle to the Bowery, asks advice:

Mrs. Wrighton: "My dear Miss Thompson, there's no street in the world so beautiful as the Riverside drive. Take him there."

Lord Tilbury: "Is there an overground, underground, or on the ground railway there?"

Mrs. Wrighton: "Not yet."

Lord Tilbury: "Then we can take a cab."

A bit of the conversation on shipboard:

Lord Tilbury: "At that time, you know, I was

Lord Tilbury: "At that time, you know, I was in South Africa."

Miss Thompson: "How exciting! I suppose you were in lots of the battles?"

Lord Tilbury: "Well, no, but I was in all of the hospitals."

A recent magazine writer has gathered a few facts concerning Richard Strauss, the young German whose sorgs George Hamiln sings so well that are of interest to those who have marveled at his compositions and have been charmed by his songs.

Richard was born June II, 1864, in Munich, where his father. Frans Strauss, was the French horn soloist in the royal orchestra. He began to play the plano when he was 4 years old. At 5 he was one of a group of children that were making things lively about a Christmas tree. After listening to the children sing for awhile he said grave-



ly: "I can compose something like that."
And he produced a three-part song.
His mother, by chance, put some covers
of music papers around his school books.
On this paper young Richard amused himself by writing compositions. Once during
his French lesson he skatched out the
scherzo of a string quartet, which has since
been rated as opus, 2 in his works.
He was still at school when he composed
a schiphony in D minor, which was soon

He was still at school when he composed a symphony in D minor, which was soon after played by the royal orchestra under Levi. The symphony was received with considerable favor, and in response to the continued hand-clapping arm bravi young Richard came out and bowed.

"What has that boy to do with the symphony?" some one asked. "Oh, he's only the composer," replied

He was still in his sixteenth year when the royal opera prima doma, Meysenheim, sang three of his songs in public.

It's a wise comic-opera star that knows his own chorus. Jefferson de Angells, who is singing in "The Emerald Isie." confessed as much recently, after he had stumbled over a young woman idling on the stage stairway of the Herald Square Theater in New York. New York.

She was a pretty, doll-like creature, all pink and white as to complexion, and all ribbons, laces, furbelows, and a picture hat

"You should be on the stage." the actor said authoritatively, as he spied the maiden and noted that chorus girls were taking

places in the stage scene.
"I guess not," the young miss answered without the least show of apprehension that she was being admonished by a superior.
Surprised at what he considered effrontery
the star observed the girl's costume. "Oh,
I see," he said, "you arrived late—didn't
have time to get all of the clothes of the

part on, and...."
"Nothing like it," the young miss an Taken further aback by what to him was clearly boldness, the comedian said: "May-be, then, young woman, you will please tell me why it is that, instead of idling on this

be, then, young woman, me why it is that, instead of idling on this stairway, you are not out there in your place on the stage?"

"Because." said the young woman in the picture hat, "I am not an actress—I am the janitor's daughter, and I am waiting here for my father."

Emile Zola was for many years the dra-matic editor of the Journal des Debats of Paris. He fought hotly for the modern and

When Calvini the elder made his first appearance at Paris he chose "Macbeth" for the opening night. Zola wrote for his paper the next morning: "Of the performance I can say nothins, for I fell asleep in the first act and did not wake up until the end." The following night Salvini played "The Gladiator," a modern Italian tragedy, and Zola devoted columns to rapturous praise of Salvini's art and a warm tribute to the drama itself.

Zola article swarm lylows himself, but his. Tolstol's drama, "The Resurrection," will be presented at the Odeon, Paris. It promises to be the theatrical event of the season. The Russian authorities have granied the use in Paris of actual prison dresses from the Moscow jail. The striking scenes depict the life of the Russian aris-Zola wrote several plays himself, but his

fame as a playwright never approached his reputation as a novelist. In the dressing-room of Martin Harvey, at the Herald Square Theater, New York, there is now hung upon the wall a portrait of Miss Dickens, granddaughter of Charles Dickens in the role of Slugary Carten which Dickens, in the role of Sldney Carton,w

che played two weeks ago at a private per-formance of "The Only Way" in London. Next to it is a portrait of Baden-Powell, who appeared in the same character during the siege of Mafekin, while he and his mer were facing starvation surrounded by the

Justin Huntley McCarthy has two new plays in hand. The first is a play entitled
"The Proud King," which he has written
for E. H. Sothern of which the hero is
the legendary King Robert of Sicily, and
in order to obtain "local color" for scenic effects the young dramatist is about to visit the island.

visit the island.

The story relates to the monarch who, boasting that no Power could dethrone him, suddenly found himself throneless. In this romatic drama there are two leading female and two leading male parts, Mr. McCarthy's second play is of an Eighteenth Century character, especially written for an actress.

Robert Neilson Stephens, who wrote Robert Neilson Stephens, who wrote "An Enemy to the King." among other plays, is in this country in the interest of his various novels. A new one, "Murray Davenport," is soon to be published. Ste-phens was for some time the dramatic critic of the Philadelphia Press and conducted the column in that journal singed The Lounger. He has been living abroad because of ill

Julia Marlowe has decided to present "The Cavaller" when she opens her engagement at the Criterion Theater, New York, on December & "The Cavaller" is a dramatization by Paul Kester of George W. Cable's novel of Southern life. Among those engaged for the cast are Frank Worhing, Edgar L. Davenport, Jerrold Robertschaw, Katherine Wilson and Gwendolyn Valentine.

Johnstone Bennett has forsaken vaude-ville, not to eign with William A. Brady, as was printed a week ago, but to join "The was printed a week ago, but to join "The Silver Silpper" company at the New York Broadway Theater. John C. Fisher engaged her over thirty other applicants to illustrate the leading low-comedy role.

Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shannon were herbert keicey and Effie Shannon were honored Monday, when the Earl of Minto, Governor General of Canada; Lady Minto and their Excellencies' suite of a dozen gentlemen and ladles journeyed from Ottawa, the seat of the Canadian Government; to Montreal to attend the performance of "Sherlock Holmes."

Emile Zola was for many years the dramatic editor of the Journal des Debats of Paris. He fought hotly for the modern and the realistic on the modern stage, and said exactly what he thought forcibly and without equivocation.

Zola was one of those peculiarly constructed persons who can see nothing that bears are juried and politician. The musician was

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tocracy, life in a Russian prison and transportation of convicts to Siberia.

Annie Oakley, the well-known shot, who has been with Buffalo Bill for many years, was thrown from her horse and painfully injured during an afternoon performance of "The Western Girl" on Young's Pier at Atlantic City, recently. Miss Oakley struck a piece of projecting scenery and was picked up unconscious. She played her part at the evening performance. Kyrle Bellew returned to New York a

Ryle Beliew returned to New York a few days ago, where he underwent an operation on his right hand, which he had been advised was necessary to prevent blood poisoning. While going through his sword duel in "A Gentleman of France," in Philadelphia, he was pinked by the sword in the hands of Arthur Butler, and the wound did not heal.

Seven recalls were the unusual compli Seven recalls were the unusual compli-ment paid to Pugno, the great French pianist, after his performance of the Schu-bert "Wanderer" Fantasi: with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall, New York, says the Musical Courier. It was a well-earned compliment, for his interpreta-tion of the fantasie was one of the most perfect pieces of plano playing heard in many a day.

Ovide Musin, the renowned violinist, will arrive in Chicago on December 1, to become head of the violin department of the Bush Temple Conservatory. This will be a significant addition to the teaching fraternity of Chicago.

M. Alvarez, who is to be one of Mr. Grau's principal tenors at this season's opera, and is well remembered for his previous appearance here, has "arrived from beginnings that were very unpromising. He is the son of an inspector in the market at Bordeaux. He showed a fondness for music and he passed his "three years" in the regimental band. Then he came to Paris, discovered that he had a voice, gave himself to study, and supported himself by playing a cornet in an orchestra. He was refused at the Conservatoire of Music, but in spite of this initial check he made his debut with great success in "Don Juan" at Ghent. It was on this occasion that he took the name of Alvarez, or, rather, it was taken for him by the manager. He accepted it with the intention of reverting to his own name, but his success was such that he was forced to continue to be Alvarez. He has recently been singing in a series of special M. Alvarez, who is to be one of Mr recently been singing in a series of special representations at the Opera Comique in

Current Programmes. William H. Crane will be seen at the Olympic to-night in "David Harum." The comedy is in three acts. There is the dicker in the opening act between David and Deacon Perkins over the horse that "will stand without hitchin," and in the second the glimpse of the Deacon behind the "pesky critter" in the rainstorm. There is the incident of the counterfeit bills, in which Harum admonishes his cashier to place them back in the drawer, as they were as "good as any other money as long as you keep 'em mov-

in' "; the quarrel with Bill Montaig, the story of Aunt Polly's visit to the theater, and the securing of the mortgage on Mrs. Cullom's farm. The final act includes the story of the visit to the circus and the whipping which followed. The engagement of John Lennox and Mary Blake brings the comedy to an end.

end,
Mr. Crane's company are Percy Brooke, Charles
J. Jackson, Frank Burbeck, Sarle Ryder, Sheridan Tupper, Guy Nichols, William Dupont, Jos.
Rawley, George F. Devere, Charles Avery, Perdita Hudspeth, Frances Lois Clarke and Kate

revive David Belasco's production of "The Aucticheer." David Belasco always maintained that the poor Hebrew of the East Side, New York, has his human side. It is partially in tioneer" was written, and it was produced by Helasco because he recognized in Warfield an uncommon character actor, who, when given free scope on the stage, can compel not only laughter but also tears. So, in "The Auctioneer" Warfield gives the character of Simon Levi just the smallest flavoring of pathos—only enough to demonstrate that, with all his laughable characteristics, he is, after all, human.

The company supporting Warfield contains Marie Bates, Maria Davis, Helena Phillips, Dallas Tyler, Rachel McCausland, Cloru Harrington, Sadle Miner, Lutte Tenley, Eveyn Whitney, Eugene Canfield, William Boag, Harry Rogers, Robert Pischer, Stokes Sullivan and Charles Chapelle.

There will be no lecture by Mr. Burton Holmes on Thursday evening of this week, as the Odeon was previously engaged for that evening. Mr. Holmes will give his fourth and last lecture December 4. The subject will be "Norway, the Land of the Midnight Sun." This lecture is said to be unusually beautiful in its illustrative phases. Among other lantern slides will be shown several taken by Mr. Holmes himself last summer, of the midnight sun. These pictures are considered by scientists and photographers to be among the best in existence.

"The Night Before Christmas," by Hai Reid.

"The Night Before Christmas," by Hai Reid, will be presented at Havlin's this afternoon. The story is that of a Judge who condemns his own son to death. Before the penalty can be carried out there is a confession on the part of a tramp. He had been one of the prosperous young men of the community until he was robbed of his wife by the man who was later murdered. Returning to visit the grave of that wife, he had found the presented form of the old ment. There found the prostrate form of his old enemy. Ther was a knife on the ground near by. This knif the tramp plunged into the unconscious man' heart. The hero is released and a love romano heart. The he

near. The nero is released and a love foliable ends happily.

The Columbia promises two headline acts this week which are new to St. Louis. Filson and Erroll old-time favorities, are presenting a new sketch, "A Daughter of Bacchus." The Delbosq troupe, twenty celebrated European acrobats, occupy the second position on the programme. The complete bill includes Josephine Sabel, Jess Dandy, the four American trumpeters, George Yeoman, the German jester; the Tanakas, illusionists and wonder-workers: McIntire and Sears, singing and dancing artists, and Al and Mamile Anderson.

ing and dancing artists, and Al and Mamle Anderson.

"Buxy Izy," a new farce-comedy exploiting George Sidney as a star, will be the attraction at the Grand Opera-house this week. Mr. Sidney will play Izzy, a type of the good-natured Hebrew. In a similar part Sidney made a hit while with Ward & Yokes. The organization includes a large chorus. Musical specialities will intersperse each act. The company consists of George Sidney, Annie Martell, Fred Wyckoff, Florence Ackley, Edward Clark, Grace Dare, Prank Glbbons, Lisle Bloodgood, Daniel Sullivan, Evelyn Gringger, Will J. Hagan, Vesta Bergea, Thompson and Andrews and the Juggling Normans, five in number. The initial performance will be that of the matinee of to-day.

Nelly McHenry will again revive "M'Liss" in St. Louis this week. This time she will play at the Imperial. The action of the play, like that of the story, takes place in California when that State was overrun by adventurous men from every part of the world. Bret Harie faithfully told the story of the time, and the dramatist has preserved the fascinating glamour of Harte's ro-

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ritality, vim and vigor, and become sturdy, robust, healthy, plump and pure blooded.

Sam Devere and his company will be the attraction at the Standard Theater this week. The buriesque by Edgar Bixley, entitled "Open All Night," will introduce the entire company. Those who will appear in the vaudeville part of the bill are the Faust Trio, in a sketch; Fiorence Hughes, comedienne; the New York Comedy Four in a one-act farce; Armstrong, Baker and Norton, cyclists.

BURTON'S CURRENCY BILL. Provides for Relief in Times of Financial Depression.

Topeka, Kas., Nov. 22.—Senator Burton of Kansas has started for Washington with "a currency relief bill" on which he has been working during the latter part of the been working during the latter part of the vacation, and which he will introduce early in the coming session. He prepared it in accordance with suggestions of Western bankers, notably those of Kansas City and this place, and its object is to provide for relief in times of financial depression. Concerning its provisions, Senator Burton says: "Its princ, pai features are to give clearing-house associations in cities of 55,000 the same power as was exercised in New York during the financial pante of 1883. It is intended to give cities of that size and upward the legal right to issue emergency currency, or to make legal currency of the certificates they issue. Two important facts must be emphasized in the consideration of the measure:

"The certificates must be issued only on the very best of securities, and they must be taxed at a rate sufficiently high to prevent the clearing-houses and the banks interested from receiving a single cent of profit.

"My idea is to permit the issuance of the

terested from receiving a single cent of profit.

"My idea is to permit the issuance of the currency for a period of not less than thirty days, and not more than one year, at an annual interest rate of 7 per cent. With this charge there would be no chance for profit and the clearing-houses would not wish to keep the currency in circulation longer than necessary. Bankers have told me that the measure is a good one, and that a law framed along that line would afford relief to the people in times of financial distress."

THIRTY-FIVE PERSONS HURT. Pittsburg Traction Car Dashed Over the Curb.

Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 22.-A traction car on the Avalon line, city bound, jumped the track at Jackson and Fremont streets, Allegheny, early to-day, dashed over the curb thirty-five persons on the car and all were badly shaken and were hurt, but only six were seriously injured. All will recover. The accident was caused by the failure of the brake.

FAMILY POISONED BY MILK. San Antonio Authorities Are Investigating.

San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 22.—Five members of the family of William Bush are lying at the point of death in this city on account of drinking poisoned milk. The authorities are investigating.

A Pessimist. "The way you're describing the different places to me," said the tourist, "you evidently consider me a stranger here.
"Av coorse, sor," replied the sour-looking driver.
"What makes you think I've never been here before?"
"The fact that no wan iver comes back that's been here afore."—Philadelphia Press.





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